In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-41 without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please add new claims 42-81 as follows:

--42. (New) A method for inhibiting tumor invasion or metastasis in a subject which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a soluble Receptor for Advanced Glycation Endproducts (RAGE)--

--43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the soluble RAGE comprises a polypeptide having a sequence identical to the sequence of human RAGE (SEQ ID NO:1) beginning from alanine at position 1 and ending at serine at position 332 of human RAGE.--

--44. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the soluble RAGE comprises a polypeptide having a sequence identical to the leader sequence of human RAGE (SEQ ID NO:2) beginning at methionine at position 1 to glycine at position 22 linked to the alanine at position 1 of SEQ ID NO:1 and ending at isoleucine at position 98 of SEQ ID NO:1.--

--45. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the administration is effected by introducing into the subject a replicable vector containing a nucleic acid encoding the soluble RAGE.--

--46. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the tumor is a neuronal tumor.--

--47. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the replicable vector is a plasmid, an attenuated virus, a phage, a phagemid or a linear nucleic acid.--

--48. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is administered to the subject during the administration of the soluble RAGE.--

--49. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the administration is via intralesional, intraperitoneal, intramuscular or intravenous injection; infusion; intrathecal administration; subcutaneous administration; liposome-mediated delivery; or topical, nasal, oral, ocular or otic delivery.--

--50. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the soluble RAGE consists essentially of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence identical to a V domain of a naturally occuring soluble RAGE.--

--51. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the soluble RAGE consists essentially of a polypeptide having an amino acid identical to a C domain of a naturally occurring soluble RAGE.--

--52. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the subject is a mammal.--

--53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the mammal is a

human.--

--54. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the soluble RAGE is administered daily, weekly or monthly.--

--55. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the therapeutically effective amount comprises a dose from about 0.000001 mg/kg body weight to about 100 mg/kg body weight.--

--56. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the therapeutically effective amount comprises a dose of from about 100 ng/day/kg body weight to about 200 mg/day/kg body weight.--

--57. (New) A method for identifying an agent which inhibits tumor invasion in a local cellular environment which comprises:

(a) providing a solid support coated with amphoterin;

(b) contacting the solid support with a tumor cell which expresses receptor for advanced glycation endproducts (RAGE) under appropriate cell culture conditions for cell migration and growth;

(c) admixing to the tumor cell culture of step (b) an agent to be tested;

(d) determining the amount of spreading of the tumor cells on the solid support, and

(e) comparing the amount of spreading of the tumor cells

determined in step (d) with the amount of spreading determined in an identical tumor cell culture in the absence of the agent, wherein a decrease in the amount of spreading determined in step (d) indicates that the agent is identified as an agent which inhibits tumor invasion in the local cellular environment.--

--58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the tumor cell is a eukaryotic cell.--

--59. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the tumor cell is a cell taken from a subject.--

--60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the subject is a human, a mouse, a rat, a dog or a non-human primate.--

--61. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the agent comprises a peptide, a peptidomimetic, a nucleic acid, a synthetic organic molecule, an inorganic molecule, a carbohydrate, a lipid, an antibody or fragment thereof, or a small molecule.--

--62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.--

--63. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.--

--64. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the fragment of the antibody comprises a Fab fragment.--

--65. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the fragment of

the antibody comprises a complementarity determining region or a variable region.--

--66. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the peptide is a synthetic peptide or a peptide analog.--

--67. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the peptide comprises at least a portion of the sequence -Asp-Ala-Glu-Phe-Arg-His-Asp-Ser-Gly-Tyr-Glu-Val-His-His-Gln-Lys-Leu-Val-Phe-Phe-Ala-Glu-Asp-Val-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Gly-Ala-Ile-Ile-Gly-Leu-Met-Val-Gly-Gly-Val-Val- (Seq. I.D. No. 3).--

--68. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the peptide comprises at least a portion of the sequence -Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Gly-Ala-Ile-Ile-Gly-Leu-Met- (Seq. I.D. No. 4).--

--69. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the peptide has the amino acid sequence A-Q-N-I-T-A-R-I-G-E-P-L-V-L-K-C-K-G-A-P-K-K-P-P-Q-R-L-E-W-K (Seq. I.D. No. 5).--

--70. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the peptide has the amino acid sequence A-Q-N-I-T-A-R-I-G-E (Seq. I.D. No. 6).--

--71. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent is a soluble human RAGE.--

--72. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent is an extracellular portion of human RAGE.--

--73. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent

inhibits an interaction between the tumor cell and an extracellular matrix molecule.--

--74. (New) The method of claim ~~61~~, wherein the extracellular matrix molecule is a laminin, a fibronectin, amphoterin, a cadherin, an integrin or a hyaluronic acid.--

--75. (New) The method of claim 74, wherein the integrin is an αVβV integrin, an αVβIII integrin, or an αIβII integrin.--

--76. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent inhibits binding of RAGE to amphoterin.--

--77. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent binds to RAGE.--

--78. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the agent binds to amphoterin.--

--79. (New) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of the agent identified in claim 57 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

--80. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 79, wherein the carrier is a diluent, an aerosol, a topical carrier, an aqueous solution, a replicable nucleic acid vector, a liposome, a magnetic bead, a nonaqueous solution or a solid carrier.--

--81. (New) A method for inhibiting tumor invasion or